

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. No new matter is added. Support for the amendment can be found, *inter alia*, at paragraphs [0017] and [0012] of the Application Publication. Reconsideration based on the amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Pettit Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,202,382; hereinafter "Pettit") in view of Nishioka et al. (JP 2004/010735 A) and Lee et al. ("The Glass Transition Temperatures of Polymers," Polymer Handbook 2nd ed. Brandrup et al. ed., John Wiley & Sons, New York, pp 139-142 (1975); hereinafter "Lee"); rejects claims 1 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Pettit in view of Lee, and further in view of Wypych, George (Handbook of Fillers, Chem Tech Publishing, 4/21/2001, pages 23, 24, 106; hereinafter "Wypych"); rejects claims 2 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Pettit in view of Nishioka, Lee, and further in view Wakabayashi et al. (WO 2004/031299) or, in the alternative, Pettit in view of Lee, Wypych and Wakabayashi; and rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Pettit in view of Nishioka and Lee, and further in view of Dany et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,009,137) or, in the alternative, Pettit in view of Lee, Wypych and Dany. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that the claimed resin composition is characterized in that the acrylic copolymer as the component (A) has a viscosity of 90000 mPa.s or less at 25°C at 1013 hPa, i.e., has flowability at ambient temperature, and a major constitutional polymer of the acrylic copolymer (A) has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 60°C to -20°C as determined by differential scanning calorimetry.

By adopting the above-mentioned arrangement, when the composition is cured, a sheet article having flexibility and better heat-stability can be provided. See, e.g. paragraph

[0006] of Applicants' Application Publication. The fact that the sheet article prepared from the resin composition of the presently claimed arrangement has flexibility and better heat-stability is clearly shown in Examples 1-3 of the present specification.

Pettit discloses a powder coated composition for use in painting containing polymer blend consisting of from about 1 percent to about 25 percent by weight of a low Tg acrylic polymer having a Tg in the range of about -20°C to about 30°C, from about 40 percent to about 75 percent by weight of a high Tg acrylic polymer having a Tg in the range of 40°C to about 100°C and a polyepoxide curing agent.

The major polymer, described by Pettit, which constitutes the polymer blend consisting of the low Tg acrylic polymer and the high Tg acrylic polymer, is a high Tg acrylic polymer having a Tg from 40°C to about 100°C.

On the other hand, the glass transition temperature (Tg) of the major polymer which constitutes the acrylic copolymer of the present claims 1 is -60°C to -20°C. This is clearly supported by the description of Examples 1-13 of the present specification.

As apparent from the above, Pettit's powder coating composition for use in painting and the resin composition of present claim 1 have a difference of over 60°C in Tg of acrylic polymer as a major component and therefore, Pettit fails to disclose a resin composition as claimed.

Moreover, Pettit discloses an invention directed to a powder coating composition for use in painting and therefore, the polymer blend comprising a low Tg acrylic polymer and a high Tg acrylic polymer is naturally a solid (powder) having no flowability. In contrast, the acrylic copolymer of present claim 1 has a viscosity of 9000 mPa.s or less at 25°C at 1013 hPa, i.e., has flowability at ambient temperature.

In other words, Pettit does not describe or reasonably suggest the resin composition of the present claim 1 containing acrylic copolymer having a viscosity of 9000 mPa.s or less and flowability at ambient temperature at all.

Accordingly, the resin composition according to present claim 1 wherein a viscosity of the acrylic copolymer is 90000 mPa.s or less and the major constitutional polymer of the acrylic copolymer (A) has a glass transition temperature (Tg) of -60°C to -20°C cannot be arrived at based on the applied art, even by adding calcium carbonate of Nishioka to Pettit.

Furthermore, Pettit describes "[i]f the Tg is below -20°C, there is poor powder stability." See col. 2, lines 53-54 of Pettit. It is clear from the above-mentioned description that it is disadvantageous to use acrylic polymer having Tg of below -20°C in the powder coating compositions for use in painting.

Namely, Pettit provides a description to prevent the use of acrylic polymer having low Tg of below -20°C, and therefore, those skilled in the art cannot conceive the use of acrylic polymer having low Tg of below -20°C in the powder coating compositions for use in painting of Pettit.

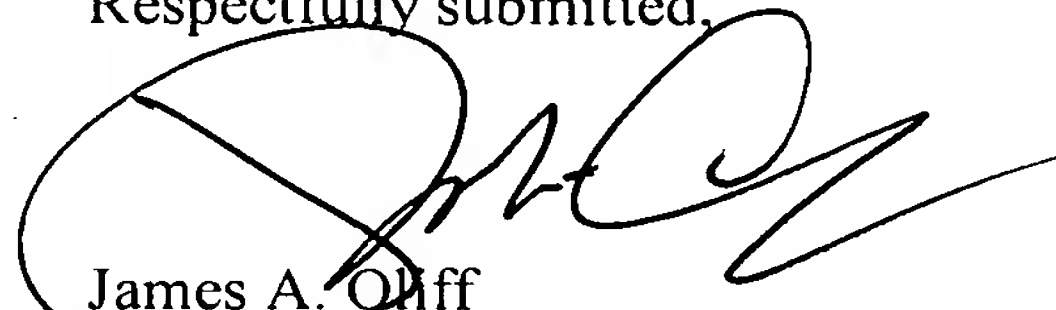
From the above, the resin composition of the present claim 1 is not obvious from Pettit and Nishioka. Neither Lee nor any of the applied references fails to remedy these deficiencies. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: January 8, 2010

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